



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/785,472	02/23/2004	Alain T. Luxembourg	JJPR-0050	1342

23377 7590 08/27/2004
WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP
ONE LIBERTY PLACE, 46TH FLOOR
1650 MARKET STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

EXAMINER

VANDERVEGT, FRANCOIS P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1644

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/785,472

Applicant(s)

LUXEMBOURG ET AL.

Examiner

F. Pierre VanderVegt

Art Unit

1644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-18 and 27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-18 and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Art Unit: 1644

DETAILED ACTION

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial Number 09/434,965, which is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial Number 08/909,549, which claims the benefit of the filing date of provisional application 60/025,588.

Applicant should amend page 1 of the specification to reflect the status of the priority applications.

Claims 1-15 and 19-26 have been canceled.

New claim 27 has been added.

Claims 16-18 and 27 are currently pending and are the subject of examination in the present Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

1. Claims 16-18 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim 16 has been amended to recite “a support having on its surface a homogeneous population of purified immobilized empty MHC class I molecules” in lines 2-3 of the claim. Applicant asserts that the amendment is supported at paragraphs [0005], [0007], [0018] and [0019] of the specification. However, support for the recitation of “homogeneous” cannot be found in any of the cited passages. Paragraph [0019] recites only that “empty recombinant MHC molecules produced in *Drosophila* melanogaster cells...allowed the use of MHC protein homogeneously loaded with the same peptide; second, naive T cells purified from lymph nodes of mice transgenic for the 2C TCR (that) homogeneously express the same TCR...” A homogeneous antigenic peptide is capable of binding to several different MHC class I haplotypes, dependent upon the anchor residues present in the peptide sequence and the specification acknowledges that different MHC/peptide complexes can be bound by the same TCR (paragraph [0019], for example). Accordingly, neither homogeneous element recited in the specification necessarily relates to a homogeneous population of MHC class I molecules. Therefore, the specification

Art Unit: 1644

does not support the recitation of homogeneous empty MHC class I molecules, only the recitation of homogeneous antigenic peptides or loaded MHC class I molecules that are recognized by a homogeneous population of TCRs, neither of which is related to an empty MHC class I molecule.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 16-18 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Burshtyn et al (Journal of Immunology [1993] 151:3070-3080; U on form PTO-892).

Burshtyn teaches a substrate for capturing peptide antigens comprising empty H-2D^b molecules bound to agarose beads. When said beads were incubated with human B₂Microglobulin, high affinity binding sites were created for an influenza peptide antigen, (see entire article, Abstract in particular).

The method taught by Burshtyn is taught as a method that can be applied by one of ordinary skill in the art to any Class I molecule of interest. Indeed, Burshtyn teaches that, "these uniform populations of bead-bound class I complexes will also prove useful in the further analysis of CTL target structure formation and recognition" at page 3080, column 1 in particular. Burshtyn recognizes that empty class I molecules are unstable, but addresses the problem well known in the art with the present method and teaches in the paragraph bridging pages 3079-3080 (in particular):

"[b]ecause class I complexes that lack peptide are known to be unstable, empty complexes might not survive affinity purification. In our case, the recovery of empty D^bβ₂m complexes preexisting in the cells was favored by isolating the proteins under conditions of low temperature and a high solubilization density. Furthermore, by not eluting the class I molecules from the affinity matrix we preserve empty complexes that are subsequently able to bind added peptide."

Furthermore, while Burshtyn exemplifies D^b Class I molecules, Burshtyn teaches at page 3070, column 2 in particular, that quantitative data regarding the class I L^d molecule had been previously obtained and accordingly provides the teaching required by the artisan to isolate class I L^d molecules. Claim 16 recites that the cells are recombinant and claim 27 recites that the MHC class I molecules of the claimed invention are purified from recombinant Drosophila cells. These are "product-by-process" claims relying upon a different cellular source of MHC Class I molecules to distinguish the final product. However, the fact remains that the cited reference and the present specification both disclose empty

Art Unit: 1644

human MHC class I complex on a non-lipid bilayer substrate. Absent a showing that there is a physical difference between empty human MHC class I complexes expressed in and purified from recombinant mammalian or *Drosophila* cells and empty human MHC class I complexes expressed in and purified from mammalian cell lines are viewed as being the same. The office does not have the facilities and resources to provide the factual evidence needed in order to establish that there is a difference between the materials, i.e., that the claims are directed to new materials and that such a difference would have been considered unexpected by one of ordinary skill in the art, that is, the claimed subject matter, if new, is unobvious. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the burden is on the Applicant to prove that the claimed materials are different from those taught by the prior art and to establish patentable differences. See *In re Best* 562 F.2d 1252, 195 USPQ 430 (CCPA 1977) and *Ex parte Gray* 10 USPQ 2d 1922 (PTO Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1989). The prior art teaching anticipates the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 16-18 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burshtyn et al (Journal of Immunology [1993] 151:3070-3080; U on form PTO-892) in view of Nikolic-Zugic et al (Eur. J. Immunol. [1990] 20:2431-2437; V on form PTO-892).

Burshtyn has been discussed supra.

Burshtyn does not teach K^{bm3} Class I molecules.

Nikolic-Zugic teaches the use of K^{bm3} Class I molecule-expressing APCs for presentation to T cells (see entire article, Abstract in particular).

It would have been prima facie obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the teachings of Burshtyn to K^{bm3} Class I molecules. One would have been

Art Unit: 1644


motivated, with a reasonable expectation of success, to apply the teachings of Burshtyn to additional class I molecules because the reference teaches that peptide binding information is available for class I molecules, such as K^{bm3}, other than the D^b exemplified and because Burshtyn teaches that class I molecules bound to the agarose beads are reusable, reducing the need for costly and time consuming additional purifications.

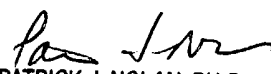
Conclusion

4. No claim is allowed.
5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Boyd et al (Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. (USA) [1992] 89:2242-2246; W on form PTO-892) discloses in particular the isolation of the MHC class I L^d molecule and is cited therefore by the Burshtyn reference of record.
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F. Pierre VanderVegt whose telephone number is (571) 272-0852. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 6:30-4:00; Alternate Fridays 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (571) 272-0841. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

F. Pierre VanderVegt, Ph.D. 
Patent Examiner
August 17, 2004


PATRICK J. NOLAN, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

8/23/04